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FROM: Helsinki

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 207, November 3, 4 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE 7/11
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

ACTION DEPARTMENT 207, INFORMATION OSLO 25, STOCKHOLM 32, COPENHAGEN 27, LONDON 157, MOSCOW 33, PARIS 29, BONN 27

Reference: EMBTEL 200 and DEPTEL 142.

Ever since Berlin situation reached stage of new crisis those Finns thinking of such matters have been concerned that Soviet actions would at some point involve invocation Article II of 1948 treaty. Dread of possibility has always risen with each European crisis and subsided with each relaxation of tension.

When Soviet request actually made it came as shock but not real surprise to many thoughtful Finns.

While Finnish leaders have set example of calm which has been beneficial there no doubt public continues worried and upset. Speculation on Soviet intentions and Finland's future is met with everywhere and most exaggerated rumors can be heard. These range from "definite information" about specific bases and facilities Soviets will request to allegation by some opponents that President told in advance by Soviets he would receive note.

Most Finns of all parties however seem to feel that because he is President they must put faith in Kekkonen and hope that he will somehow succeed in pacifying Soviets without undue cost to Finland.

GUFLER

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